H.R. 2417, THE DOT KIDS DOMAIN NAME ACT OF 2001

Testimony of Donna Rice Hughes

Before

The Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet of the House Committee On Energy and Commerce

November 1, 2001

Donna Rice Hughes Biography

- FamilyClick.com Advisor and Spokesperson
- Author, <u>Kids Online: Protecting Your Children In Cyberspace</u> (Revell, 1998)
- Child Online Protection (COPA) Commissioner (1998-2000)
- Enough Is Enough Vice President-(1994-99)
- Founder - www.protectkids.com
- Phoenix Advisory Services- Co-founder and Principal (1998-present)

ONLINE DANGERS TO CHILDREN

1. Free and easy access to inappropriate and illegal content in homes, schools, libraries, businesses and churches:

    -Pornography (child porn, obscenity, harmful to minors)

    -Violence & Bomb-making

    -Hate speech

2. Predators have easy and anonymous access to unsuspecting kids

    (77 million children expected to be online by 2005 (eMarketer)

Accidental Access

- 1 in 4 youth ages 10-17 had unwanted exposure to porn in the last year **(Online Victimization, National Center for Missing and Expoited Children, June 2000)**

- 91% of children accessing objectionable sites do so accidentally **(Yankelovitch Partner Survey, 9/30/99)**

- 62% of parents are unaware that their children had accessed objectionable sites **(Yankelovitch Partner Survey, 9/30/99)**

Cyber-Porn Aggression and Deception

- Misspelled Words- (shareware vs. sharware)

- Innocent Searches- (toys, boys, pets, etc)

- Stealth Sites- (whitehouse.com; coffeebeansupply.com; teenagershideout.com; watersports.com)

- Unsolicited E-mail

- Instant Messages

- Chat Rooms

Pornographers' Use of Brand Names

- 26 popular children's characters, such as Pokemon, My Little Pony & Action Man revealed thousands of links to porn sites - 30% were hard-core (Envisional 2000)

- 25% of porn sites are estimated to use popular brand names in search engine magnets, metatags and links - Disney, Nintendo, and Barbie (Cyveillance Survey, 1999)

Child Pornography and Obscenity

- Watersports.com
  - Free images of women urinating
  - Live streaming video
- Boys.com
  - Hijacks to "Man Alert: Leading Gay Content Site"
  - Free images of sexually-explicit homosexual activity
- Child Pornography
  - 345% increase in child pornography sites between February and July 2001 (N2H2 press release, 8/01)

YAHOO! and PORNOGRAPHY

- Yahoo! Clubs, Member Directories and Geocities sites host child porn and encourage child sex abusers
- Yahoo! "Young Girl and Boy Club" (600 members)
- Yahoo! "Slutty Teens for Older Men Club" (3200   members)
- Yahoo! "Preteens in Silk Bras and Panties" (2000 members)

(American Family Association Press Release, October 23, 2001)

PREVENTION:
THREE- PRONG SOLUTION

- A shared responsibility between the:

    Public - Parents, Schools & Libraries

    Technology Industry

    Legal Community - Law Enforcement & Public Policy

- Each provides an essential layer of protection

Dot Kids Domain Name Act

- Easy to access "Kids-Friendly" content
- Empowers parents to help safeguard children online
- Important part of total solution
- Criteria for content to qualify for domain should be clearly defined

Dot Kids Content

- The Dot Kids domain would effectively shield children from HTM content if children restricted to zone
- Content suitable for minor children (under 13 years old) which may exclude:
    - Violent content
    - Hate speech
    - Gambling sites
    - Revealing attire
    - Sex education

    - Consider tiered access levels

Domain Operator

- Domain Operator should be trusted and experienced entity in:
    - Aggregation of children's content
    - Online child safety
    - Safety technology applications

    Example: The FamilyClick Model
    - From the creators of The Family Channel
    - Aggregators of child content
    - Superior server-side filtering - (Two-step filtering including real-time filter)

FAMILYCLICK
(FamilyClick.com)

FullClick	18+. Blocks sites receiving a rating beyond PG13, including porn, hate, violence, gambling
TeenClick	12-17. Blocks unmonitored chat and e-mail, personals, free e-mail
PreTeenClick	Kids 6-11. All above including: revealing attire, advanced sex ed., weapons, games appropriate for pre-teens
KidzClick	Kids 6 and under. All the above: including basic sex ed.
PlayClick	Limited library of FamilyClick preapproved sites
FamilyClick Unplugged	Full, unfiltered Internet access

Recommended Exclusions

1. Chat Rooms and Instant Messaging

- 89 % of sexual solicitations were made in either Chat Rooms or Instant Messages (Pew Study, JAMA, 6/01)
- 1 in 4 kids participate in Real Time Chat (FamilyPC Survey, 2000)
- 13 million youths use Instant Messaging (Pew Study. JAMA, 6/01)

2. Email - 30% of all spam is from pornographers

3. Marketing to children (COPPA Compliance)

Children are also perpetrators

- Eliminating chat rooms, instant messaging and email also guards against inappropriate behavior by minor children
- 1 in 5 children received a sexual solicitation or approach in last year
- 1 in 33 received an aggressive sexual solicitation
- Juveniles - 48% of overall solicitations
            48% of aggressive solicitations
- Juveniles - 63% of online harassments

- (Juveniles -Younger than 18 years; Sample of 1,501 youths ages 10-17, Online Victimization Report, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, June 2000)

Technology Supplementation

- Real-time monitoring to ensure content criteria compliance
  - Moneyopolis.org - Ernst & Young financial site for kids. Expired domain registration bought by pornographer (Source: New York Times, 10/26/2001)
  - 5 million new or renamed web site additions/week
  - Protect against inappropriate links or changes
  - Monitoring technology should be utilized at the server level

Filtering Technology as Safety Net

- Savvy kids can re-configure browser settings
- Protect against inappropriate links or changes
- Allows access to appropriate content outside Dot Kids Domain
- Greater flexibility, safety and content access
- Server-side filtering superior and highly effective
  - Allows filtering of multiple categories of inappropriate content
  - Consider server side filtering as an added value service by Dot Kids operator

Internet Safety Education Is Essential

- 1 in 2 parents don't use protective software (FamilyPC, 2000)

- 58% prefer parental guidance instead of protective software (SafeKids/NetFamilyNews, 2001)

- COPA Commission Recommendation - Government and private sector should undertake a major education campaign to promote awareness of technologies and methods to protect kids online
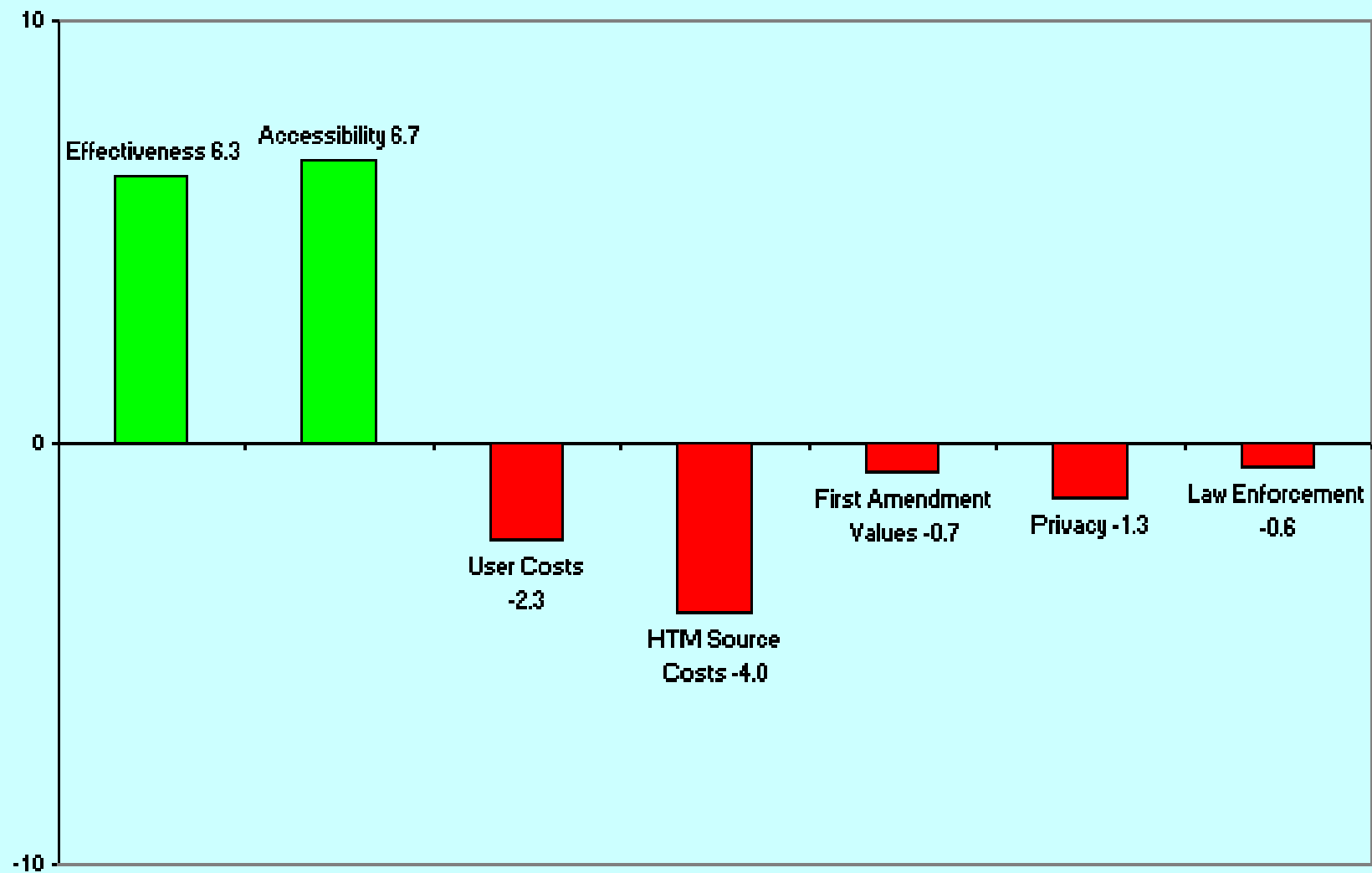
COPA Commission Report

(Please include COPA Commission Report Executive Summary for the
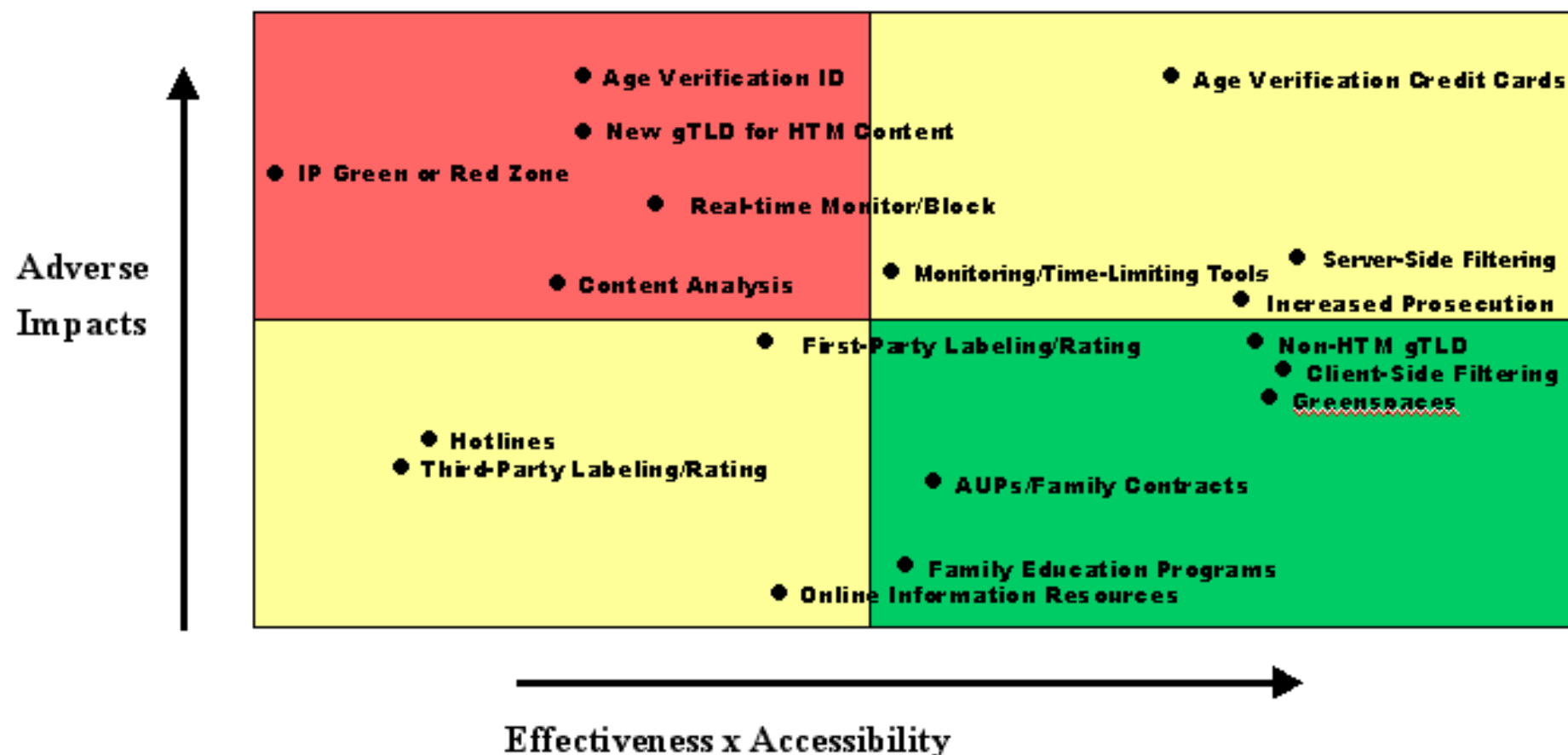record of today's hearing at www.copacommission.org)

Report found establishment of a Top Level
Domain for non-harmful to minors content:

– Effective way to protect children from htm content

– More effective if children restricted to such a zone

– More visible than multiple green spaces

– Not effective in addressing content in chat, newsgroups or
  instant messaging

– Not included in the Commission's recommendations to
  Congress due to ICANN considerations.

– A lower level domain could be established without ICANN
  involvement

Establishment of a gTLD for Non-Harmful to Minors Content

COPA COMMISSION REPORT SCATTERGRAM

Adverse Impacts

- Age Verification ID
- Age Verification Credit Cards
- New gTLD for HTM Content
- IP Green or Red Zone
- Real-time Monitor/Block
- Monitoring/Time-Limiting Tools
- Server-Side Filtering
- Content Analysis
- Increased Prosecution
- First-Party Labeling/Rating
- Non-HTM gTLD
- Client-Side Filtering
- Greenspaces
- Hotlines
- Third-Party Labeling/Rating
- AUPs/Family Contracts
- Family Education Programs
- Online Information Resources

Effectiveness x Accessibility

LEGAL PRONG
GOVERNMENT & LAW ENFORCEMENT

• Aggressive enforcement of current laws to curb the online sexual exploitation of children

• "Government at all levels should fund, with significant new money, aggressive programs to investigate, prosecute, and report violations of federal & state obscenity laws" (COPA Commission Report, Law Enforcement Recommendation Summary)

• Government can't parent and parents can't enforce the law.

• A "Kids-Friendly" Domain can help equip parents to better protect their children on the Internet.